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DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

Industries and Commerce

INVESTIGATION OF EXPORT STATISTICS. Early in April Mr. Durand, the Director of the Census, submitted to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor a report of an investigation made by him regarding the charges preferred by Mr. Francis T. Lowe, of New York, respecting the accuracy of the statistics of exports published by the Bureau of Statistics. The report states that Mr. Lowe has entirely failed to make any case against the accuracy of these statistics.

Mr. Lowe claimed that by wrong methods of classification or otherwise, the export statistics exaggerated the total exports of the country, or at least the exports of manufactured articles, and submitted an affidavit of Charles S. Price, a former employee of the Bureau of Statistics, dated May 3, 1907, in which Price stated that instructions regarding classification had been issued by the Bureau "in which raw materials are described as articles 'wholly or partly manufactured.'" Mr. Lowe asserted that the reported exports of manufactures had steadily climbed since the date of these instructions, notwithstanding that the years from June 30, 1907, to June 30, 1910, were "the three bad years for export, as shown by the returns of England and Germany with the entire world." The Director of the Census states in his report that the change in classification made by the Bureau of Statistics on July 1, 1907, was a perfectly proper change, designed to conform export statistics with the production statistics of the Census. The Bureau gave conspicuous public notice of the change, and reclassified the figures of exports for a number of years back, in order that they might be comparable with the future statistics. The articles falling within each class of exports are conspicuously published month by month. The report also shows that the increase in the reported exports of manufactures since the change in 1907 has been much less rapid than for several years preceding. Moreover, the reported exports of manufactures from the United States since 1907 show almost precisely the same movements as the exports from Great Britain and Germany. The year 1910 was the greatest export year in the history of both England and Germany, as it was in the history of the United States so far as manufactured articles are concerned.

In addition to the general charges made by Mr. Lowe, he submitted a number of inquiries which practically challenged the accuracy of the statistics of exports to certain particular countries, or of particular articles. The report states that Mr. Lowe is misinformed with regard

to the facts on practically every point which he takes up; for example, the alleged disparity in the movement of exports to the Latin American countries from the United States, as compared with Great Britain and Germany, was due to the comparison of fiscal year figures for the United States with calendar year figures for the other two countries, and wholly disappears in calendar year figures. Again, Mr. Lowe stated that the exports of wheat, cattle, cotton, meat products, and oils for 1910 show a loss of over \$200,000,000 as compared with 1908. As a matter of fact, the decrease in the articles specified was only \$65,000,000.

The First National Bank of Greenville, Mississippi, has distributed an interesting pamphlet, entitled *The Truth about the Boll Weevil*, prepared by Alfred H. Stone and Julian H. Hart. This information throws light upon the probable future of cotton cultivation.

The Bureau of Manufactures has concluded its studies of *Cotton Goods in Latin America*. Part IV deals with Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Equador, Jamaica, and Porto Rico, the report being prepared by W. A. G. Clark, Commercial Agent. (Special Agent Series No. 44; Washington, 1911; pp. 118.)

The *Daily Consular and Trade Report* for April 24, 1911, is devoted to a summary of the "Traffic and Commerce of Liverpool"; and in the same series for March 14, is a collection of reports on the "World's Tobacco Industry."

The report of Victor H. Olmstead, Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Agriculture, for 1910, contains an interesting diagram showing the estimated condition of the corn crop as made in October for the years 1890-1909, and also the estimated yield determined in December.

In the *Report of the Elevator Commission of the Province of Saskatchewan* (Regina, November 11, 1910) there is a large and valuable amount of information in regard to the methods of business in the grain trade. The commission decided against government ownership of elevators, but recommends coöperation on the part of the farmers, assisted by a provincial loan.

The Commissioner of Corporations has issued a *Summary of Report on the Lumber Industry* (Part I, *Standing Timber*; Washington, Feb. 13, 1911, pp. 38). This portion deals more particularly with amount and ownership of standing timber. It is shown that there is a concentration of control in a comparatively few enormous holdings,

vast speculative purchases, and a great increase in value. The discussion of combinations in the manufacture or sale of lumber is reserved for a subsequent report.

The Forest Resources of the World, by Raphael Zon (Bulletin 83, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Washington, December 10, 1910, pp. 91), presents convenient data relating to every country of commercial importance with regard to timber resources. A classification is made between importing and exporting countries. There are two pages of bibliography.

The Bureau of Statistics and Manufactures of Washington has published a pamphlet on *The Irrigated Lands of the State of Washington* (Olympia, 1910, pp. 96). There are many photographs illustrating the agricultural development of the state.

The Board of Education of Massachusetts has issued a special report on *Agricultural Education* (Boston, 1911, pp. 104) in which there is considerable information in regard to the present condition of the farming industry in Massachusetts.

Bulletin No. 4 of the Canada Department of Mines summarizes the *Investigation of the Peat Bogs and Peat Industry of Canada*, made during the season of 1909-1910 (Ottawa, 1910, pp. 44).

Corporations

RAILROAD LEGISLATION IN CALIFORNIA. A noteworthy act for railroad regulation was passed by the legislature of California on February 10, 1911. All rates on intrastate business in California are henceforth to be established by the state railroad commission. Carriers may propose changes between the first and tenth days of July of each year, but may not themselves raise or lower any rate. The commission has power over demurrage, storage, carrying, delivering, switching, time of transit, and any service incidental to the transportation of passengers or freight. It is authorized to prescribe a system of accounts and to make a valuation. It can determine through rates and classifications.

This sweeping legislation is the result of the election of Governor Johnson in 1910 after a campaign in which the influence of the Southern Pacific was the sole topic which the successful candidate was willing to discuss. California has had a railroad commission or commissioners for thirty-five years, and there has been in her constitution since 1879, a section specifically providing for a commission with power to prescribe rates. Charges have nevertheless been high and discrimi-

nation rife. The laws in force have proved inadequate and the commissioners unable or unwilling to cope with the great railroad corporations. In 1909 the discovery that a commissioner and former city official had accepted bribes while a member of the city government of San Francisco, led, with other things, to the passage of an act similar to the Interstate Commerce law. It is this legislation which is now repealed. There is no charge that the act of 1909 has proved unworkable but the time is felt to be ripe for more radical measures.

STUART DAGGETT.

University of California.

CHICAGO TELEPHONE REPORTS. By an ordinance granting privileges to the Chicago Telephone Company, passed November 6, 1907, the city council reserved the right, from time to time, to regulate telephone rates by special ordinance. Whenever, thereafter, the city should desire to take up the regulation of rates, the comptroller is required to give the company thirty days' notice, and the latter must then present all the information needed to assist the city to make a proper and reasonable regulation of rates. Furthermore, semi-annual reports in prescribed form must be regularly published by the company, and the city through the agency of the city council also possesses the right to make a complete examination of the company's books and affairs at any time. Under this ordinance two detailed reports have recently been rendered by special examiners. One was made under the direction of the city comptroller by D. C. and W. B. Jackson, engineers, and Arthur Young and Company, certified public accountants; the other was made under the direction of the Telephone Subcommittee of the Committee of the City Council on Gas, Oil, and Electric Light, by W. J. Hagenah and an expert staff. These reports are of interest beyond the confines of the city of Chicago.

They are of general interest because they are the first fruits of an important experiment in public regulation of monopolies; they are of especial interest because they reveal an astonishing difference of opinion between the two sets of experts. The experts employed by the city comptroller reported that for the year ending March 31, 1910, the company earned a net profit at the rate of 4.64 per cent on an investment within the city of Chicago of \$24,285,905.35. Since the company's regular dividend is at the rate of 8 per cent, these experts calculated that during the year ending March 31, 1910, a deficit had been incurred of nearly \$900,000, and that if the existing rates for telephone service remained in force, it would become impossible for the company to provide a satisfactory service.

On the other hand, the experts employed by the sub-committee of the city council reported that the company had earned a net profit at the rate of over 10 per cent on what they regarded as the fair present value of the property, \$19,053,169. In the opinion of these experts, after deducting the sum required to pay 8 per cent on the present value of the investment, there remained a further sum of over \$400,000, which afforded the company ample protection against every possible contingency.

Space is lacking to go into a full discussion of the reasons for these contradictory reports. Two leading causes, however, may be pointed out. One affected the calculation of the value of the company's investment; the other, its annual net income. In the first place, the city council's experts computed that that portion of the plant subject to depreciation was actually worth only 77.5 per cent of its original cost. It accordingly estimated the present value of property which had originally cost \$20,448,304 at \$15,847,436. The city comptroller's experts made no reduction in capital value on account of depreciation. This difference in procedure accounts for most of the discrepancy between the two estimates of the value of the company's investment. Secondly, there was an important difference in the calculation of the rate of depreciation. The city comptroller's experts reckoned depreciation at 8 per cent per annum, and assumed that depreciation reserves would earn only 3 per cent per annum. The city council's experts reckoned depreciation at $6\frac{2}{3}$ per cent per annum and assumed that depreciation reserves would earn 4 per cent per annum. This accounts for much of the discrepancy between the two estimates of the company's net earnings for the year.

Now it is unfortunate that trained engineers and accountants should differ so widely upon questions submitted to their expert consideration. Such divergent reports tend to bring all experts into discredit; and, at the present juncture, it is of especial importance that our experts enjoy the good will of the public. Without it, contemporary experiments in the orderly regulation of public service corporations are threatened with failure. In this instance, the divergence of expert opinion is peculiarly unfortunate, since it was in large part unnecessary. The most important differences in the reports were not the consequence of engineering blunders or erroneous accounting. There were no serious differences between the two sets of experts with regard to those matters with which only experts can appropriately deal. The differences arose when the experts attempted to deal with matters lying outside their proper provinces. It is not an engineering or ac-

counting fact, but a legal principle that is at stake in the dispute as to whether the company's dividend-earning investment is measured by the cost of its plant, or the cost less depreciation. It is submitted that such questions as are involved in fixing the procedure for the determination of the value of a public service corporation's investment are not questions for technical experts to decide. They should be determined by the administrative officer, under whose direction the experts are employed. In this instance the legal principles involved should have been laid down in advance by the city comptroller or sub-committee of the city council.

The necessity of distinguishing between the province of the technical expert and that of the administrative officer is revealed in another place in the two reports. The city comptroller's experts tacitly assumed, and the city council's experts argued at some length, that 8 per cent per annum is a fair compensation to investors in the Chicago telephone industry for the use of their capital by the public. Now it is not the business of technical experts to decide what rate constitutes a fair return on capital. Technical experts will certainly bring their craft into disrepute if they undertake to say that capital invested in a particular industry ought to earn 8 per cent, or that depreciation reserves ought to earn either 3 per cent or 4 per cent. They are employed to ascertain facts, not to lay down principles of administrative law. Whether the capital of a public service corporation ought to earn 8 per cent per annum, or more, or less, is not a question of fact, but a question of law. For the decision of such a question, an administrative officer ought in the first instance to take the responsibility. In this particular case, there are reasons for believing, upon the evidence contained in the reports, that 8 per cent is excessive, but that is another matter beyond the purpose of the present note. Suffice it to point out here, that administrative officers must accept the responsibilities of their position, they must themselves formulate the principles of valuation for the solution of problems of rate-making and determine the reasonableness of a particular rate of dividend in the light of the information obtained for them by their experts, and they must refrain from delegating to engineers and accountants other tasks than those appropriate to engineers and accountants.

Harvard University

A. N. HOLCOMBE.

RATES. Those interested in scientific methods of charging for water, gas and electricity will welcome the work of the Railroad Commission of Wisconsin. Besides collecting information as to the various

systems in use in that state, the commission has in a recent case put into concrete form its ideas as to what constitutes a reasonable system. (*In re Application of the Jefferson Municipal Electric Light and Water Plant for Authority to Adjust its Rates*. Aug. 30, 1910. 5 Wis. R.R. Com. Rept., pp. 555-591.) The leading feature of the commission's plan is a differential charge based on steadiness of use. A lower rate is charged for all power taken beyond an average of two hours' daily use of the consumer's "active load." The latter may be defined as his fair share of the greatest demand the central plant is at any one time called on to meet, and is determined by classes of consumers, where it cannot be more accurately found for each individual by the use of demand meters. This charging system encourages the consumer who, though using much power in all, cannot use much at any one time, and so calls for a relatively small addition to the capacity of the central plant.

A suggestive paper on the general subject of rates was recently read by Mr. H. L. Doherty before the Commercial Gas Association at Boston (*Rates*, printed privately), in which the writer presents the need of scientific charging, and suggests the basis of his own, the original "readiness to serve" system. The main feature is a division of expenses according as they depend on: (1) the number of consumers, (2) the maximum rate of supply which they may at any time call for, and (3) the amount actually consumed. This is not carried into its details, but the paper is supplemented by an exhaustive bibliography, largely of articles in technical periodicals which should prove very useful.

Amherst College.

J. H. CLARK.

RATES OF EXPRESS COMPANIES IN CANADA. The Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada have recently issued in typewritten form an elaborate decision on express rates (*Judgment in the Matter of Tariffs of Express Companies Carrying on Business in the Dominion of Canada*, Ottawa, pp. 117). Under the act of 1903, a Board of Railway Commissioners was established, and endowed among others, with the powers over the rates of railroad and express companies previously exercised by the Governor-in-Council. The Board in the above decision holds: (1) that all standard express tariffs require its affirmative approval before they may legally be put into effect; (2) that the express companies must assume the burden of demonstrating the justice and reasonableness of such tariffs; and (3) that the Board is not bound by the common law rules of evidence, nor by the rules that have been

laid down in the United States to determine the constitutional limitations upon the powers of governmental bodies with respect to the regulation of rates. The only restraint upon the action of the Board is the general statutory one, that it shall not disallow tariffs, unless they are unreasonable or unjust; but no specific rules are laid down for its guidance, and apparently the courts possess no power to review the findings of the commissioners, unless on the broad ground of public policy. The commissioners are probably authorized to develop according to their discretion a body of administrative law, incorporating all the necessary and appropriate rules of justice in the matter of the rates of common carriers.

The peculiar relations between the railroads and the express companies in Canada (the latter for the most part are owned by the former) made this case perhaps an unusually difficult one. At any rate the Board assumed it to be an unusually difficult case, and made no attempt to lay down any positive rules of law. The most important ruling of a negative character is that the evidence brought forward by the railroad and express companies is insufficient to demonstrate the reasonableness of their express tariffs, the latter being in general two and one half times the first class freight rates. That evidence consisted for the most part of balance sheets and traffic reports, supplemented by verbal testimony. The significance of the judgment appears to be (though it is not explicitly stated) that the railroads and express companies will be unable satisfactorily to demonstrate the reasonableness of their charges, unless they produce evidence showing the relation between income and value of property devoted to the use of the public. The commissioners, however, made no attempt to formulate any rules for the guidance of the companies in appraising the value of their property devoted to the use of the public.

A. N. HOLCOMBE.

The question of the violation of the anti-trust law of 1890 is taken up in the *Hearings* on House Joint Resolution 230, and *Hearings* on House Resolution 813 before the Committee on Rules, January 17 and January 23, 1911. The first of these hearings was in the appointment of a committee to investigate shipping pools, and the second on the merger of the United States Steel Corporation and the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company (pp. 73, 60). A considerable amount of documentary material appears in the "exhibits."

The Interstate Commerce Commission has published a revised edition of its regulations to cover the instruction and filing of freight

tariffs and classifications, and passenger fare schedules, with administrative rulings. (*Tariff Circular*, No. A. 1911, pp. 143.)

The *Proceedings of the Twenty-Second Annual Convention of the National Association of Railway Commissioners*, held November 15, 1910 (Washington, 1911, pp. 256), devotes special attention to railroad statistics, car service, demurrage, taxes and valuation, and rates and rate-making. In the section devoted to the discussion of railway statistics is a compilation of state laws and rulings in regard to the assignment of revenues and expenses of railway companies.

The publication of the *Third Annual Report of the Public Service Commission* of New York, Second District, for 1909 (Albany, 1910; vol. 1, pp. 1172; vol. 2, pp. 429; maps) provides the student of corporation finance with a large amount of first-hand data. In the appendices the orders of the commission are classified by subjects, among which are to be noted questions of consolidation, the issue of securities, and rates of express companies. Volume II, *Abstracts of Reports of Corporations*, contains elaborate statistical tables showing investments, costs, indebtedness, capitalization, equipment, operating expenses, wages of employees, and accidents. Exceptional are the tables showing freight operations of steam railroads, with details as to tonnage originating on the road or received from connecting carriers. For public utility corporations the tables show the bases of charges.

The *First Annual Report of the Board of Public Utility Commissioners of New Jersey* for 1910 (Trenton, 1911, pp. 285) deals for the most part with the orders issued by the Board. Tables show the rates charged by public utility companies furnishing gas, electricity and water.

The *Sixty-Fourth Annual Report of the Commissioner of the Ohio State Library for 1909* (pp. 61) contains notes on Ohio canals, including eleven pages of bibliographical entries on this subject.

In the *Fifth Annual Report of the Railroad Commission of Washington* (Olympia, 1910) is given a review of the work of the commission during the five years of its existence. Reference is made to the valuation of telegraph and telephone property now in progress.

The *Railway Age Gazette* has reprinted four articles written by its western editorial manager, Mr. Samuel O. Dunn (New York, 1911, pp. 85). These treat of the valuation of railroads, limitation of railway profits, rates and efficiency, and the new long and short haul law. The first two originally appeared in the *Journal of Political Economy*.

The address of Mr. Otto H. Kahn on *Edward Henry Harriman* delivered before the Finance Forum in New York, January 25, 1911, and printed in pamphlet form (Finance Forum, 318 West 57th St., N. Y., 1911, pp. 47) contains some suggestive points of view for the student of finance.

The statements of Mr. Frank Trumbull, chairman of the board of directors of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company, and of Mr. W. H. Williams, vice-president of the Delaware and Hudson Company, before the Railroad Securities Commission, have been printed in pamphlet form.

Part V of the *Fifty-First Annual Report of the Superintendent of Insurance* of New York (Albany, 1910, pp. 1360) contains a considerable amount of historical material in regard to insurance supervision in New York, including a report of fifteen pages on supervision in Europe. There is also an historical review of the business of co-operative fire insurance associations, going back to 1836.

Labor

In the *Eighth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labor* of New Hampshire, 1910 (Concord, pp. 214) the Commissioner of Labor advocates the passage of an equitable factory inspection law, and that the Commissioner of Labor be made responsible for the enforcement of the fifty-eight hour law and child labor laws.

The *Third Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics of Massachusetts on Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labor*, 1909, and the *Tenth Annual Report on Strikes and Lockouts*, 1909, are of special interest as showing an effort to inform the reader in regard to the meaning of terms used in the statistical tables, and also in giving publicity as to the methods of deriving the tables. (Boston, 1910, pp. 260; Parts I and II of the *Fortieth Annual Report*.) This attempt to standardize terms will be recognized as a step in advance in state reports.

Labor Bulletin, No. 78 of the Bureau of Statistics of Massachusetts summarizes "Legislation arising from labor disputes and related causes in the Massachusetts courts," and provides a useful supplement to *Bulletin* No. 70, which treats of labor injunctions (Boston, December, 1910, pp. 42). Of importance is the printing of the dissenting opinions of the Massachusetts Supreme Court relating to the law of labor disputes, for as the editor says, "the minority decisions of yesterday may become the majority of tomorrow."

A reprint from the annual report of the State Board of Health of Massachusetts has been made of that part dealing with the *Work of the State Inspectors of Health* for the year 1909 (Boston, 1910, pp. 127). These inspectors according to the laws passed in 1907 are entrusted with the enforcement of laws which have a direct economic bearing, thus extending the supervision over factories ordinarily performed by factory inspectors. Of special interest, and for the United States almost unique, are the reports on factory and occupational hygiene.

Part I of the *Annual Report of the Rhode Island Bureau of Industrial Statistics* relates to tenement house conditions in five principal cities based on an investigation by Mr. Aronovici, director of the Bureau of Social Research, aided by students at Brown University (Providence, 1911, pp. 38). The methods used were similar to those followed in previous investigations in New York, Boston, and St. Louis. Measurements of rooms and buildings were made as well as personal inspection of sanitary conveniences. In all 1360 tenements were visited. The proportion between rentals and income in the families visited ranged for the several cities from 11.21 to 14.94 per cent, as compared with 18 per cent in New York. Data are given on the subjects of crowding, dark rooms, water supply and drainage.

An indorsement of free public employment bureaus is given in the *Twenty-Fourth Report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics* of Connecticut for the two years ending November 30, 1910 (Hartford, 1910, pp. 400). It is stated that these offices have passed the experimental stage and are recognized as a necessity, taking precedence over private agencies. There are now five in operation. This same report has a section devoted to tenement houses, and publishes a directory of labor organizations. The number in the state in 1909 was 478 as compared with the maximum in 1903 of 591. About 100 pages are devoted to employers' liability, giving in convenient form reprints of various documents and articles recently published on this subject.

The New York Commission on Employers' Liability, Unemployment, and the Causes of Industrial Accidents, of which Professor Seager of Columbia, has been vice-chairman, submitted in April three reports, in addition to its report on the employers' liability law, to the New York legislature. The first deals in a comprehensive way with the causes and prevention of industrial accidents and is supplemented by a number of bills amending the labor law for the purpose of increasing the efficiency of the factory inspection service and making

the safety requirements of the law more stringent. The second deals with the problem of unemployment and concludes with a recommendation for a chain of free public employment exchanges to be located at different points in New York State and to be under the direction of a third deputy commissioner of labor. This report includes a full discussion of European experience with employment exchanges. The third discusses the decision of the New York Court of Appeals declaring unconstitutional the workmen's compensation law enacted in 1910, on the recommendation of this commission. The commission now urges the legislature to amend the state constitution so that the legislation which has been declared void, or similar legislation, may be re-enacted.

In addition to the routine topics discussed in the *Tenth Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labor of New York*, for the year ended September 30, 1910 (Albany, 1911, pp. 328), there are two reports in the field of industrial hygiene, dealing with special investigations of the phosphorus match and pearl button industries (pp. 83-111).

The National Civic Federation has published a pamphlet, *Views of Legal Committee Department on Compensation for Industrial Accidents and their Prevention* (1 Madison Square, N. Y., 1911, pp. 36, 11). This gives the opinion of the Court of Appeals in *Ives v. South Buffalo Railway Co.*, and brief comments on the effect of the decision by Messrs. P. T. Sherman, W. J. Moran, John Mitchell, and Launce- lot Packer.

The difficulty of remedying existing legislation in regard to employers' liability because of constitutional obstacles is dwelt upon in the *Report of Commission on Employers' Liability*, made to the governor of New Jersey, January 11, 1911. This, together with a message of the governor, evidence, and a proposed act has been published as a separate document (Trenton, 1911, pp. 91). The commission was apparently inclined to favor the principle of a general workmen's compensation act, but legal opinion was against the constitutionality of an act which would compel an employer to compensate an injured employee without regard to the fault or negligence of the latter. A bill is therefore proposed providing for a system of elective compensation after a mutual agreement of employer and employee, whereby the question of contributory negligence is eliminated.

In the *Twenty-Fourth Annual Report of the Department of Labor and Printing* of North Carolina (Raleigh, 1910, pp. 328), the commissioner calls attention to the need of a factory inspection law, doubts

the advisability of establishing a free employment bureau, and advocates a ten-hour day for factories and the enactment of an age limit of thirteen years.

The Ohio Commission on Employers' Liability and Employees' Compensation has completed its report and submitted its recommendations. On these the commission divides. The majority recommends the adoption of a plan whereby the employee or his family shall receive a minimum of \$1500 in case of total incapacity, or death, with \$150 for medical assistance and a like sum for burial expenses. The maximum amount is \$3400 in case of death. These sums are to be met out of a state insurance fund to which the employer is to contribute three fourths and the employees one fourth. The cost of administration is to be borne by the state. The minority assent to the main features of the foregoing plan, but retain the existing right to sue and exempt the employees from financial contributions.

The subject of diseases incident to employment is treated at length in the *Report of Commission on Occupational Diseases*, made to the Governor of Illinois (Professor Charles R. Henderson, Secretary of the Commission, Chicago; January, 1911, pp. 219). About twenty-five special agents took part in the investigation, and among the inquiries covered were the industries concerned with smelting, metallic lead, printing, plumbing, painting, storage batteries, putty powder, rubber, and brass chills. The commission recommended a continuation of the study of the subject for a period of at least two years in order that proper legislation may be enacted.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of Illinois has printed a special report on *The Cherry Mine Disaster* (Springfield, 1910, pp. 90). It includes a history of the accident, the relief measures, the settlement with the St. Paul Company, and a discussion of industrial accidents and methods of compensation.

Part II of the *Twelfth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labor of Minnesota* is devoted to a study of industrial accidents and employers' liability in Minnesota (pp. 121-324) by Don D. Lescossier. Of special interest are the ten chapters discussing accidents in industrial occupations, thus contributing information in regard to the risk of each of the industries analyzed. By such inquiries it is hoped to be able to determine what proportion of accidents are due to other causes than human negligence. An appendix gives a bibliography of three pages.

To the list of reports on workmen's compensation referred to in the March number of the REVIEW is to be added the *Report of Minnesota*

Employees' Compensation Commission (1911, pp. 289, xiv). This opens with a general discussion of the law, in which the subject is localized by illustrations taken from the court records of Minnesota, showing the cost of judicial procedure on personal injury cases. Successive chapters give a review of European systems, discuss the action of the federal government, and summarize the agitation for a change of law in the several states. In the discussion of a plan of insurance it is stated that for Minnesota there are constitutional obstacles. The latter part of the report presents an act for a workmen's compensation code, which practically follows the English plan.

The report of the Washington Commission on Employees' Compensation, summarized in the *REVIEW*, pages 154-157, has been quickly followed by legislation (Ch. 74, laws of 1911).

The *Tenth Annual Report of the Kansas Free Employment Bureau* (Topeka, 1911) calls attention to the development during the past two years of furnishing farm hands to harvest the wheat crop. In 1910 the supply of labor for the first time in many years was sufficient and, moreover, labor was well distributed.

The *Addresses made at the Fourth Annual Meeting of The Liability Insurance Association*, held in New York, October 20, 1910, have been printed (Secretary, Walter E. Hoag, General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, Philadelphia). Of special value is the paper by Mr. H. V. Mercer on the constitutionality of workmen's compensation laws.

Money and Banking

The proceedings of the *International Conference on Bills of Exchange*, held at the Hague, June 23 to July 25, 1910, have been published as a government document (Sen. Doc., No. 768; 61 Cong., 3 Sess., 1911, pp. 511). This includes the report of the American delegate, Mr. Charles A. Conant, a summary of the discussions at the several sessions, and the papers submitted by the several delegations, several of which deal with the history of the law of exchange. Among these is a comparison of the New York and English laws. The Conference is to reassemble in September.

Mr. Andrew MacFarland Davis has added a *Supplement to the Origin of the National Banking System* (National Monetary Commission, Sen. Doc., No. 582, Part 2, 61 Cong., 2 Sess., 1911, pp. 215-246). This is an appendix on the Moorhead bill of 1863.

Other recent publications of the National Monetary Commission are *The Banks of Issue in Italy*, by Tito Canovai, general secretary of the Bank of Italy, with an article by Professor Ferraris (Sen. Doc., No. 575, 61 Cong., 2 Sess., 1911, pp. 345); and *Banking in Russia, Austro-Hungary, the Netherlands and Japan* (Sen. Doc., No. 586, 61 Cong., 2 Sess., 1911, pp. 214).

In the *Proceedings of the Arizona Bankers' Association*, seventh annual session, November 11-12, 1910 (Morris Goldwater, secretary, Prescott, Arizona; 1911, pp. 87), is an interesting paper on *Foreign Exchange*, by H. Choynski, of San Francisco, in which information may be found in regard to practices covering exchange dealings with the Orient.

In 1909 Massachusetts passed an act authorizing the establishment of credit unions, the first law enacted in the United States for this purpose. In order to encourage the formation of such associations the Bank Commissioner has issued a pamphlet *Credit Unions* (Boston, 1910, pp. 34) in which there is a brief statement of the history and principles of foreign credit associations, a discussion of opportunities in Massachusetts, and instructions in regard to organization and management.

Students of the history of banking in the United States will find a serviceable list, alphabetically arranged, of all the state banks incorporated in Rhode Island, with the dates of charter, in the *Third Annual Report of the Bank Commissioner of Rhode Island*. Brief comments show the subsequent fate of these institutions as to reorganization, liquidation, or failure. (Providence, R. I., 1910. Pp. 267.)

Prices

The *Thirty-Third Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics and Labor* of New Jersey for the year ending October 31, 1910 (pp. 291) has a chapter on the cost of living in New Jersey. The retail prices for a selected bill of food supplies were obtained from grocers and butchers in twenty-one counties of the state. The total average for the state is given as \$13.143. The several counties are then rated in comparison with this standard average, the extremes of the range running from \$10.745 to \$15.810. The prices are for June, 1910.

The *Seventh Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics* of Washington, 1909-1910 (Olympia, 1911, pp. 365) includes the results of a special investigation of the cost of living. The prices for 1900 are used as a base.

A considerable amount of data in regard to prices of food commodities in different cities in Pennsylvania with some discussion of the cost of living based upon local conditions may be found in the *Annual Report of the Secretary of Internal Affairs of Pennsylvania* (Part III, *Industrial Statistics*; Harrisburg, 1910).

Public Finance

Several public documents relating to proposed reciprocity legislation have been published, among which are the special message of President Taft, on *Canadian Reciprocity* (Washington, 1911, pp. 75), containing the letters from the Canadian ministers, and proposed schedules; *Reciprocity with Canada* (Sen. Doc., No. 862; 61 Cong. 3 Sess. pp. 55), containing the bill, an analysis, and two addresses by President Taft; and *Reciprocity with Canada* (Sen. Doc. No. 849; 61 Cong. 3 Sess. pp. 132), which includes the report of the Tariff Board under date of February 28, 1911, in regard to various commodities affected by the reciprocity bill. Further information may be found in *Trade Relations of Canada*, by Frank R. Rutter (Bureau of Manufactures, Washington, Tariff Series, No. 26; March, 1911, pp. 39). This deals with the system now in force and proposed concessions to the United States.

Other documents on the tariff are *Hearings before the Committee on Ways and Means*, December 13, 1910 (Washington, pp. 58), relating to the bills for the establishment of a Tariff Board; and *Foreign Tariff Notes*, No. 1, issued by the Bureau of Manufactures (Washington, pp. 32), in which the reports of consular officers originally published in the *Daily Consular and Trade Reports*, July 5 to November 11, 1910, are brought together.

The *Twentieth Annual Report of the New York Tax Reform Association*, for 1910 (29 Broadway, N. Y., pp. 8) furnishes an instructive survey of tax problems as they exist in New York. Special comment is made on the inheritance tax law.

The Federal Commissioner of Corporations has continued his studies of *Taxation of Corporations* into the Middle Atlantic States. (Part II; June 6, 1910, pp. 115.) The states covered are New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and District of Columbia, the section in which corporate activity has been developed to the highest degree. New Jersey derives 92 per cent of its total state tax revenue from corporations; Pennsylvania 72 per cent; Delaware 62 per cent; New York 32 per cent; and Maryland 32 per cent. The distinctive

features in each of the several states are concisely presented, and there is a considerable amount of historical detail and brief bibliographies. Few public documents will be of more service to the student of finance.

The special report of the Bureau of the Census, entitled *Statistics of Cities Having a Population of over 30,000: 1908* (Washington, December 20, 1910, pp. 353), is limited to a more restricted field than its predecessor which covered the year 1907. The earlier report presented data on equipment and work of departments while the last is confined solely to financial affairs. Aside from the tables of statistics, students of municipal finance will find valuable assistance in the textual discussion of accounting terminology, and pages 34-36 give a convenient description of the character of receipts from special property and business taxes.

The *Proceedings of the Single Tax Conference*, held in New York, November 19 and 20, 1900, under the auspices of the Joseph Fels Fund Commission have been printed in pamphlet form (Commercial Tribune Building, Cincinnati).

The Second Report of the Legislature by the Tax Commission of Kansas (Topeka, Kansas, Jan. 10, 1911, pp. 34) contains a brief discussion of classification of property for assessment and taxation. Other topics especially discussed are the separation of the sources of state and local revenue, and state supervision of taxation.

Demography and Statistics

The Milwaukee Bureau of Economy and Efficiency is engaged in an investigation to improve the service of the Health Department. Among the inquiries is a comprehensive field study of housing conditions; of tuberculosis, including house registration of patients; of meat and food inspection; and of the milk supply, beginning with the inspection of farms and ending with the delivery of milk to the consumer. This outside study is under the general direction of Professor John R. Commons, Director of the Bureau, and of Dr. B. M. Rastall, Associate Director. The actual field work is planned and carried on under the direction of Dean H. L. Russell, and E. G. Hastings, also of the University of Wisconsin. In coöperation with local societies, Wilbur C. Phillips, formerly of the New York Milk Committee is organizing the local forces interested in child welfare. Peter Rasmussen, University Fellow is carrying on the field investigations of Milwaukee's milk supply and infant mortality. These studies include inspection of farms, the method of shipment of milk, actual condition in

wholesale milk houses, handling by retail distributors, the sale by grocers, and the handling of milk in the homes. A special investigation of basement tenements in general to determine how well existing law is being enforced, has been made by Miss Rosa Perdue, assistant state factory inspector.

A further step is planning an organization with the proper accounts and records for carrying out the recommendations of the Efficiency division in coöperation with the health department. This division is composed of a staff of expert organizers and accountants under the direct charge of Dr. Rastall.

A supplementary volume of the Census of Massachusetts for 1905, entitled *Occupations and Defective Social and Physical Condition* (Boston, Bureau of Statistics of Labor, 1910, pp. xix, 393) has just been published. Although data in regard to occupations were collected in 1905, there was no provision in the original plan for using this material in the series of census volumes. In 1908 a special request presented to the legislature was favorably acted upon resulting in this publication. The classification used in 1905 on the whole follows the definitions used by the federal census in 1900 rather than the unduly detailed subdivisions employed by the state census of 1895.